be justified on the basis of traffic and cost effectiveness. They are only part time agents of the Department and are engaged to work between 2 and 5 hours per day. They are paid a consolidated monthly allowance ranging between Rs. 240 and Rs. 620 determined on the basis of their work-load plus dearness allowance. These ED Agents are supposed to have other independent means of livelihood and the emoluments which they earn from the Departmbent is meant to supplement their basic income which they derive from other sources. As they yare only part time agents of the Department and as the Postal functions performed by them are of a very simple nature, they cannot stand comparison with the regular Departmental employees. However, E. D. Agents they are given preferential treatment in the matter of recruitment to the Departmental madres of Postmen and Group 'D' an don appointment to these cadres, they automatically become entitled for all the privilages and facilities available to the Departmental employees.

(b) The Government is constantly making efforts to improve the service conditions of ED Agents and as a result thereof, they are now getting Dearness Allowaance at par with the Departmental employees and are paid bonus on their actual emoluments. They have also been covered under a Group Insurance Scheme with effect from 1st Aril 1992.

Deplorable conditions of the Post Officers in Malaviya Nagar and Yusuf Sarai, New Delhi

1938. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large postal property at sub post offices like Malaviya Nagar and Yusaf Sarai, etc. which are not being adequately exploited;

(b) what is the annual turn over of these two post offices;

(c) whether it is a fact that even the official phones are not functioning in these Post Offices for weeks at a stretch;

(d) whether Government propose to install PCOs and STD phones in these post offices to improve revenue and service; and

(e) whether Government also propose t o install a water cooler in each of these Post Offices for staff and customers and also provide an additional balance for weighing of letter, etc.?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) At Malaviya Nagar on the departmental land a post office building has already been constructed.

At Yusuf Sarai, the department has no site.

(b) No profit and loss account is maintained for permanent Post Office.

(c) No, Sir. The official phones of these post offices are functioning satisfactorily.

(d) A PCO is functioning in Yusuf Sarai post office. There is no proposal under consideration to install more PCOs and STD phones in these post offices.

(e) At Yusuf Sarai, post office there is no justification for provision of water cooler. At Malaviya Nagar a water cooler is already available and no additional water cooler is proposed to be provided.

In both the post offices, adequate number of weighing scales are available, and there is no proposal to augment the number.